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# BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1968





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TOWN HALL  
BEBINGTON, WIRRAL  
CHESHIRE, L63 7PT  
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## BOROUGH OF BEBINGTON

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### HEALTH COMMITTEE

*Chairman:* Councillor B. S. Horn  
*Vice-Chairman:* Councillor A. E. Richmond  
*Aldermen:*

H. GARNER

J. K. TRENCH

*Councillors:*

E. V. M. CRAPPER

Mrs. H. G. HEBRON

G. E. GLOVER

W. LUNGLEY

Mrs. D. GOODFELLOW

Mrs. E. POWL

Mrs. J. L. GREEN

Mrs. S. A. PRICE

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### PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health:*  
H. C. JENNINGS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.OBST., R.C.O.G.

*Chief Public Health Inspector:*  
T. TOWNSON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:*  
R. B. VAUGHAN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Additional Public Health Inspectors:*  
J. C. KNEALE                      B. D. YOUNG  
T. A. DAVIES                      L. WOOTTEN  
L. C. MOORE

*Pupil Public Health Inspector:*  
R. C. MILNER

*Technical Assistant:*

R. D. GREEN

*Clerical Staff:*

Miss M. HOSKER

Miss B. DOWNEY  
(To 20.9.68)

Mrs. J. HOLLAND  
(From 19.2.68)

Miss M. PREECE  
(From 14.10.68)

Miss P. SHUKER  
(From 9.12.68)

## TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report for 1968.

The adjusted birth rate, per 1,000 of the estimated population, was 17.3.

For the eighteenth year in succession no death was associated with pregnancy or childbirth. The overall adjusted death rate was 12.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

For the fifteenth year in succession no case of diphtheria was notified in the borough. Furthermore no case of poliomyelitis was notified – for the fifth successive year. There are, however, no grounds for complacency over this freedom from serious infectious disease. It is imperative that a very high acceptance of immunisation should be maintained. Where, because it is not prevalent in the community, there is no natural immunity to a preventable infectious disease, it is essential that immunisation is sustained at a high level lest a virulent form of that disease returns to an unprotected population. Any neighbourhood, wherein a number of the children fail to receive their free protective inoculations, is liable to be the scene of an outbreak, particularly of diphtheria or poliomyelitis.

We also have the means of preventing a disease of a different type, the incidence of which has assumed gigantic proportions. I refer to dental decay. Studies of the beneficial effects of fluoridation of water supplies began in this country in 1955. Since that time evidence has accumulated both here and abroad to show that fluoridation is a safe and effective public health preventive measure. Rarely has any health subject been so extensively studied. Every allegation of harm has been industriously investigated before dismissal.

It is nearly 7 years since a Minister of Health announced that he was ready to approve proposals from local health authorities to make arrangements with water undertakings for the addition of fluoride to water supplies which were deficient in it naturally. We hoped that the incidence of dental decay in young children would be reduced by about half. It cannot be fully realised just how deplorable the condition of the nation's teeth has become. At five years of age more than a quarter of the "milk teeth" are decayed, filled, or even extracted.

*By twelve years of age only about two per cent of children have a full complement of naturally sound teeth. It has been estimated that nearly twelve million fillings and extractions will be carried out in a typical year among children aged 5 to 17 in England and Wales: and yet, the Secretary of State reported on the 24th July 1969 that of the 186 local health authorities and authorities with delegated health and welfare functions in England, only 17 (about 9 per cent) are at present receiving fluoridated water in the whole or part of their areas. In a further two areas only the water supplies contain adequate natural fluoride. Must we wait for legislation, or a radical reorganisation of local government, to prevent hundreds of local children needlessly suffering extensive dental decay every year?*

*I thank Mr. Townson for compiling the report on environmental hygiene which follows, and Mr. Turner for presenting the vital statistics.*

H. C. JENNINGS

*August, 1969.*

## VITAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,244
Registrar General's estimated population (mid 1968)	...	...	...	...	...	...	56,230
Dwelling houses at 31st December, 1968	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,928
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1968	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,742,285
Yield of a Penny Rate 1968/69 (Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£11,400

<b>Live Births</b>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	891	448	443
Illegitimate	63	35	28
	<hr/>		
	954		

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	17.0
Birth rate adjusted by comparability factor of 1.02	...	...	17.3
Birth rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales	...	...	16.9
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...	...	6.6

<b>Still Births</b>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	7	6	1
Illegitimate	3	3	—
	<hr/>		
	10		

Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	964
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	10.4
for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	14.3

### Infant Deaths

Deaths of Infants under ONE year—Legitimate	17		
Illegitimate	—	...	17
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	17.8
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	19.1
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil
Deaths under FOUR WEEKS—Legitimate	12		
Illegitimate	—	...	12
Neonatal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	12.6
for England and Wales	...	...	12.4
Early Neonatal Deaths (under 1 week)	...	...	9
Early Neonatal mortality rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	9.4
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	...	...	19.7

### Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)

Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	0.24



Deaths	Total 674	Male 299	Female 375		
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	...	12.0	
Death rate adjusted by comparability factor of 1.07	...	...	...	12.8	
Death rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales	...	...	...	11.9	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (including Enteritis) under 5 years of age	...	...	...	1	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	1	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil	
Deaths from Diphtheria (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil	

**TABLE I**

**Comparative Annual Numbers and Rates of Births and Deaths for Borough of Bebington since 1939**

Year	Popula- tion	Live Births		Infant Deaths		Maternal Mortality			Deaths all ages	
		Total No.	Rate Per 1,000 Popu'n (ad- justed)	Total No.	Rate Per 1,000 Live Births	Puer. Fever	Other	Rate Per 1,000 Live Births	Total No.	Rate Per 1,000 Popu'n (ad- justed)
1939	42,000	781	18.61	34	43.53	—	2	2.56	396	9.38
1940	43,180	682	13.48	46	67.2	2	1	4.68	470	10.88
1941	41,910	688	16.42	36	52.6	—	1	1.46	482	11.5
1942	41,880	748	17.8	21	28.07	—	—	—	403	9.6
1943	41,300	748	18.11	47	62.83	—	—	—	455	11.0 1
1944	41,970	857	20.41	36	42.00	—	—	—	434	10.34
1945	42,390	788	18.3	39	49.00	1	2	3.8	419	10.02
1946	45,620	875	19.4	45	51.0	—	1	1.14	489	10.8
1947	46,640	914	19.6	47	51.3	—	1	1.09	470	10.1
1948	46,780	809	17.2	37	45.5	—	1	1.2	432	9.2
1949	47,030	706	14.9	24	33.9	—	2	2.8	471	9.9
1950	47,150	687	14.5	18	26.2	—	1	1.4	460	9.7
1951	47,300	648	13.7	17	26.3	1	—	1.52	562	11.6
1952	47,790	651	13.7	17	26.2	—	—	—	529	11.0
1953	48,220	643	12.9	21	32.6	—	—	—	499	11.0
1954	48,740	635	13.7	15	23.6	—	—	—	478	10.2
1955	49,100	663	14.2	19	28.7	—	—	—	513	10.8
1956	49,950	753	15.8	16	21.2	—	—	—	509	11.4
1957	50,150	766	15.9	10	13.1	—	—	—	524	11.6
1958	50,540	722	15.9	21	27.2	—	—	—	552	12.1
1959	51,050	816	16.6	18	22.1	—	—	—	554	12.1
1960	51,640	870	17.5	27	31.0	—	—	—	554	12.0
1961	52,060	907	17.6	16	17.6	—	—	—	639	14.1
1962	52,980	858	16.4	16	18.6	—	—	—	641	13.8
1963	53,420	978	18.7	16	16.4	—	—	—	708	14.6
1964	54,070	954	18.0	15	15.7	—	—	—	632	12.8
1965	54,520	928	17.4	20	21.6	—	—	—	639	12.6
1966	55,140	929	17.1	17	18.3	—	—	—	663	12.7
1967	55,520	1018	18.7	10	9.8	—	—	—	650	12.6
1968	56,230	954	17.3	17	17.8	—	—	—	674	12.8

It will be noted that the death rate for all ages was higher in 1968 than 1939. The reason for this lies in the fact that our population is ageing, and the proportion of elderly people in the community has become higher.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population of the borough at the 30th June was 56,230.

**CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1968**  
(As Compiled by the Registrar-General)

Cause of Death

[illegible]

B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	...	...	...	M	7
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	...	...	...	F	18
B46 (5)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	M	38
B31	Influenza...	...	...	...	F	79
B32	Pneumonia	...	...	...	M	9
B33 (1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	...	...	F	13
B33 (2)	Asthma	...	...	...	M	2
B46 (6)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	F	21
B34	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	M	43
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	...	...	...	F	16
B46 (7)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	...	...	...	M	25
B38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	M	—
B39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	F	1
B46 (8)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	...	...	...	M	2
B46 (10)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System...	...	...	...	F	4
B42	Congenital Anomalies ...	...	...	...	M	2
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	...	...	...	F	1
B44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	...	...	...	M	3
B45	Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	...	...	...	F	6
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	M	2
BE48	All other Accidents	...	...	...	F	1
BE49	Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	...	...	...	M	3
Total All Causes	...	...	...	...	M	4
					F	2
						—
						2
						3
						6
						6
						299
						375
						103
						217

**Births**

954 live births were referable to the borough which gave a rate of 17.3 per thousand of the population compared to 10.18 and 18.7 the previous year.

63 illegitimate births were registered during the year.

**Deaths**

According to the Registrar General 674 deaths were referable to Bebington during 1968 giving a crude death rate of 12.0 and an adjusted death rate of 12.8.

There were 9 residents of the borough killed in road accidents.

**Infant Mortality**

17 infants under one year of age died giving an infant Mortality Rate of 17.8 per thousand compared with 10 deaths and a rate of 9.8 in 1967. 12 of these deaths were under one month. The rate for England and Wales was 18.3 per thousand.

The Perinatal Mortality Rate which is now recognised as the rate for infant deaths under one week and still births was 19.7.

**TABLE III**  
Cause of death of those dying under one month

Cause of death	Male	Female	Total
Congenital Abnormality ... ..	1	1	2
Prematurity ... ..	4	2	6
Pneumonia ... ..	1	—	1
Enteritis ... ..	—	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage ... ..	—	1	1
Craniostenosis ... ..	—	1	1
TOTAL	6	6	12

**Maternal Mortality**

No Maternal death has occurred in the borough since 1951. Statistically, on the basis of the national figures, one maternal death should occur in the borough once in every four years.

TABLE IV

Stillbirths, Neonatal (Infants under 1 month) Deaths and Rates per 1,000 Live and Still British

Year	Total No. of Live and still Births	No. of Still Births	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and still Births	No. of Deaths Infants under one month	Neo-Natal Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No. of Still Births plus No. of Neo-Natal Deaths	Early Neo-Natal Death and Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and still Births
1939	807	26	32	26	32	52	64
1940	722	38	53	22	30	60	83
1941	708	24	34	18	25	42	59
1942	771	23	30	8	10	31	40
1943	788	40	51	29	25	60	76
1944	884	27	31	23	26	50	57
1945	881	23	28	23	29	46	57
1946	900	25	28	32	35	57	63
1947	936	22	24	35	37	57	61
1948	832	23	28	26	31	49	59
1949	730	19	26	19	26	38	52
1950	711	24	24	15	21	39	55
1951	655	7	11	11	16	18	27
1952	670	19	28	15	23	34	51
1953	661	18	27	15	23	33	50
1954	654	19	29	13	20	32	49
1955	681	18	26	13	20	31	46
1956	771	18	23	13	16	31	39
1957	786	20	25	6	8	26	33
1958	785	13	17	15	19	28	36
1959	828	12	15	15	18	27	33
1960	883	13	15	21	24	34	39
1961	921	14	15	12	13	26	28
1962	875	17	19	10	11	27	31
1963	999	21	21	11	11	32	32
1964	972	18	19	11	12	29	30
1965	939	11	12	12	13	23	21
1966	946	17	18	14	15	31	32
1967	1030	12	12	8	8	20	19
1968	964	10	10	12	13	22	20

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES

TABLE V

No. of notified infectious diseases occurring in Bebington according to year and disease.

DISEASE	YEAR													
	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Scarlet Fever ...	34	15	37	38	74	31	21	17	33	22	56	49	47	19
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	97	150	134	27	80	58	12	11	42	86	41	22	49	8
Measles ...	497	255	496	170	906	327	681	606	345	610	425	381	404	584
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	6	8	6	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal)	22	16	30	16	28	15	25	15	17	16	18	8	10	7
Meningococcal Infection ...	3	2	2	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery ...	39	19	22	18	69	22	22	345	24	62	168	34	90	5
Food Poisoning ...	47	9	4	54	20	48	18	13	19	23	25	15	—	19
Erysipelas ...	9	14	6	2	9	5	3	3	—	3	3	3	3	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice (Notifiable from 15th June, 1968) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

## Scarlet Fever

19 cases of scarlet fever were notified during 1968. This disease continues in a very mild form and no case was admitted to hospital during the year.

## Diphtheria

It is now fifteen years since a case of diphtheria was notified. It is most important that young children are immunised against this disease in order to prevent any future outbreak.

## Whooping Cough

8 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year. 4 of these were known to be immunised. There were no cases under one year which is the age at which this disease is most severe. Whilst it is known that immunisation is not 100% effective against this disease even when not completely preventative it modifies the course of the disease and the serious sequelae which used to occur are uncommon in the immunised person.



Measles

584 cases of measles were notified during 1968.

Smallpox

No cases were notified in the borough — 1 case was notified for England and Wales.

Poliomyelitis

No cases were notified in the Borough for the fifth successive year.

Food Poisoning

19 notifications of food poisoning were received during the year.

Dysentery

5 cases were notified during 1968.

Sonné dysentery is a mild disease more of a nuisance than an illness to the majority of sufferers although it can have serious consequences in the very young and the very old and probably only a very small percentage of sufferers call in a doctor and are subsequently notified to the health department. Although it is always with us some years it is more prevalent than others.

Tuberculosis

There were 2 notifications of respiratory tuberculosis in 1968.  
One death was attributed to non-respiratory tuberculosis during 1968.

TABLE VI

Notifications and the number of deaths from tuberculosis during 1968.

Age in years	Notifications				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 —	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
65 —	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
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**TABLE VII**

The following table shows the number of notifications, the number of deaths, and the death rate from Tuberculosis during the last twenty one years.

Year	Notifications				Number of Deaths				Death rate from Resp. T.B. England & Wales per 1,000 popul'n
	Respiratory Total No.	Rate/1,000 popul'n	Non-Respiratory Total No.	Rate/1,000 popul'n	Respiratory Total No.	Rate/1,000 popul'n	Non-Respiratory Total No.	Rate/1,000 popul'n	
1948	37	0.79	5	0.11	18	0.38	2	0.04	0.51
1949	50	1.06	6	0.13	23	0.49	2	0.04	0.49
1950	41	0.87	8	0.17	11	0.23	—	—	0.36
1951	47	0.99	9	0.19	11	0.23	4	0.08	0.32
1952	42	0.88	11	0.23	11	0.23	4	0.08	0.24
1953	35	0.73	5	0.10	4	0.08	1	0.02	0.20
1954	42	0.86	12	0.25	2	0.04	2	0.04	0.18
1955	29	0.59	2	0.04	5	0.10	—	—	0.13
1956	44	0.88	3	0.06	9	0.18	—	—	0.11
1957	36	0.72	2	0.04	2	0.04	—	—	0.095
1958	21	0.42	6	0.12	4	0.08	1	0.02	0.10
1959	12	0.24	3	0.06	4	0.08	—	—	0.077
1960	17	0.33	3	0.06	3	0.06	2	0.04	0.068
1961	11	0.21	2	0.04	1	0.02	—	—	0.065
1962	20	0.38	3	0.06	2	0.04	—	—	0.059
1963	18	0.34	—	—	1	0.02	—	—	0.056
1964	10	0.18	—	—	2	0.04	—	—	0.047
1965	15	0.27	—	—	2	0.04	2	0.04	0.042
1966	7	0.13	—	—	3	0.05	—	—	0.043
1967	5	0.09	3	0.05	1	0.02	—	—	0.037
1968	2	0.04	—	—	—	—	1	0.02	0.030

**Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1968**

Respiratory Cases ... .. 127

Non-Respiratory Cases ... .. 16

143

**Medical Examinations**

During the year the Medical Officer has carried out 131 medical examinations for new employees, superannuation and sick pay purposes. The formal clinical examination for assessment of fitness for entry to employment and the superannuation scheme is now very largely redundant.



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

TABLE VIII

This Table shows the number and types of Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors during 1968.

Nature of Inspections made	Totals for 1968	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices	Notices complied with
Dwellinghouses inspected ... ..	1397	376	—	—
Dwellinghouses re-inspected ... ..	2279	—	39	154
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises ...	979	58	—	106
Tents, Vans and Sheds... ..	1	—	—	—
Factories with mechanical power ...	32	3	—	1
Factories without Mechanical power...	13	1	—	—
Workplaces ... ..	15	—	—	—
Schools ... ..	24	—	—	—
Hairdressers ... ..	38	—	—	—
Public Conveniences ... ..	26	—	—	—
Drains ... ..	2004	124	10	55
Ditches and Watercourses ... ..	37	—	—	—
Cesspools ... ..	7	—	—	—
Septic Tanks ... ..	31	1	—	—
Courts and Passages ... ..	55	—	—	—
Refuse Tips ... ..	67	2	—	—
Offensive Accumulations ... ..	103	—	—	—
Dustbins ... ..	908	—	—	—
Food Premises ... ..	699	70	—	9
Food Hawkers ... ..	41	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses ... ..	747	—	—	—
Animal Boarding Establishments ...	11	—	—	—
Pet Shops ... ..	3	—	—	—
Riding Establishments ... ..	5	—	—	—
Food Poisoning visits ... ..	121	—	—	—
Dysentery Visits and Revisits ...	276	—	—	—
Rodent Control ... ..	817	—	—	—
Verminous Premises ... ..	84	3	—	—
Smoke Control... ..	2207	—	—	—
Atmospheric Pollution ... ..	195	—	—	—
Noise Observations ... ..	59	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ... ..	592	—	—	—
Appointments outside Office... ..	315	—	—	—
<b>Food and Drugs Sampling:</b>				
Nature and Substance... ..	138	—	—	—
Visits ... ..	11	—	—	—
<b>Bacteriological Sampling:</b>				
Food ... ..	71	—	—	—
Ice Cream ... ..	6	—	—	—
Milk ... ..	58	—	—	—
Swimming Bath Water ... ..	42	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>14,514</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>325</b>

## **HOUSING**

### **Housing Act 1957**

During the year a detailed survey was commenced of the tenanted properties in the New Ferry Area to ascertain the degree of disrepair, dampness and sanitary conditions. To date this has resulted in 78 informal and 11 statutory notices being served. In a number of cases the work of carrying out the required remedies is in progress.

### **Compulsory Improvement of Dwellings**

**Poolbank, Elmbank and Willowbank Roads, New Ferry.**

#### **Area No. 1**

The remaining four houses in Elmbank Road were completed in the first half of the year. A Suspended Notice on 11 Elmbank Road was withdrawn as improvements were carried out on change of tenancy. It was again noticed that often improvements had been carried out and tenants had redecorated the interior of their houses. The total number of dwellings brought up to standard in this area were 23.

### **Mill Terrace, Hr. Bebington.**

#### **Area No. 2**

By the end of the year all works on Improvements were completed. In nine cases bathrooms were installed by bedroom conversions and in three cases by rear extensions.

**Trafalgar Drive, Erfurt Avenue, Poplar Drive, Bromborough Road, Collingwood Road, Carlton Road and Newlands Road, Bebington.**

#### **Area No. 3**

During the latter part of the year improvements by bedroom conversion had commenced and by the end of the year one dwelling had been completed. It is anticipated that next year will see the completion of this area.

**Marquis Street, Kempton Road, Esher Road, Earl Street, New Ferry.**

#### **Area No. 4**

In October the properties in the above streets and roads were declared No. 4 Compulsory Improvement Area in the Borough. The Area comprises 52 dwellings, 29 tenanted and 23 owner/occupied. As on previous occasions the tenants and owner/occupiers were interviewed and advised on the implications arising from the improvement of the properties. It is expected that 14 tenants will in accordance with the Statutory right refuse permission for improvements to be carried out.

The survey of our next proposed Compulsory Improvement Area has now been commenced. This will include the properties No. 2-46, 1-51 and 61-65 Napier Road, Nos. 2-32 and 1-31 Ingleby Road, Nos. 2-30 and 1-29 Woodford Road, Nos. 2-16 and 1-27 Cecil Road, Nos. 29-47 Beverley Road and Nos. 65-71, 73-89, 97-105, 145-163 New Ferry Road. It is anticipated this Area will be submitted to the Health Committee early next year and be declared an Improvement Area.

### **52 to 74 Eastham Village Road, Eastham**

The owners of the above properties agreed last year to convert the rear bedrooms to bathrooms. By the end of the year 6 dwellings had been brought up to the required standard.

### **Improvement of Bromborough Pool Village**

During the year a number of meetings took place between the Chief Public Health Inspector and the Directors of the firm controlling the above Village, to discuss the possibility of bringing the dwellings requiring improvement, up to standard. The Village is a self contained industrial village comprising 123 dwellings, 1 shop, 1 Post Office, Village Hall, Church and Club and the properties are maintained by the firm's own Estate Department.

It was agreed that a detailed survey should be carried out by this Department to ascertain the improvements required in each dwelling and the approximate cost of improvements. Following this inspection the firm proposed that the 26 dwellings nearest to the factory should be demolished and 68 of the remaining 97 dwellings which required improvement would be brought up to the required standard. This proposal was eventually agreed upon and it was decided that the work would be carried out in two phases. Phase 1 – the dwellings in the area between The Green and the un-named road and Phase 2 – the dwellings in the area between the un-named road and Pool Lane. In Phase 1 there are a total of 44 dwellings, 28 of which require improving. 26 of these will have rear extension bathrooms, the other 2 bedroom conversions. In Phase 2 there are 53 dwellings, 40 of these requiring improvement.

By the end of the year plans had been approved for the 1st Phase and let out to contract. Work is expected to commence early in the New Year.

### **Port Sunlight Village**

Work of improving the dwellings in Port Sunlight Village Improvement Scheme, Stage 4, is still progressing quite favourably.

Towards the end of 1968 the conversion of 9 houses on the corner of Lodge Lane and Poolbank into 18 flats (ground floor for pensioners and first floor for single office staff) had been completed together with 29 dwellings in Poolbank.

### **Standard Grants**

During the year 34 applications for Standard Grants were received for the provision and installation of various standard amenities, to bring the dwellings up to the full standard of improvement. The total to be paid in grant would be £4,405. an average of £129 6s. 0d.

### **Discretionary Grants**

7 applications were received and approved. 2 applications were for the conversion of dwellings into 2 self-contained flats and 1 dwelling into 2 separate dwellings, a total of 10 units. Grant payable amounted to £2,351 13s. 9d. an average of £235 3s. 6d. per dwelling.

### **Improvement of Dwellings outside Compulsory Improvement Area**

During the year 3 dwellings were brought up to full standard after action taken by the Local Authority. This followed written application in 1967 by the tenants requesting the Local Authority to take action under Section 19 of the 1964 Housing Act.

### **Housing Repairs**

A total of 175 complaints were received during the year. 376 Informal Notices and 39 Statutory Notices were served to secure the abatement of nuisances and the remedy of disrepair.

## **CLEAN AIR**

As from 1st July Smoke Control Area No. 11 became an operative Area. It is bounded by Mount Road (easterly side) from the junction with Broadway and extending northwards to the Borough boundary and thence eastwards along the Borough boundary to Bebington Road. Bebington Road (west side) to the junction with Kings Lane, Lings Lane (northerly side) to junction with Mount Road.

The area is approximately 96 acres in size and comprises 728 dwellings, 2 commercial premises and 18 other premises. Despite the publicity given regarding the time allowed for conversion in that works must be completed by a given date, the usual rush of estimates for approval was received during the last few months before the Area became operational.

When the survey of Area No. 12 was completed, details were submitted to the Health Committee and subsequently a Smoke Control Order was made, and it was recommended that the Minister be requested to confirm the Order. The Order was confirmed on the 9th July to come into operation on July 1st 1969. This Area is bounded by Kings Lane (south side) from the junction with Old Chester Road, extending westwards to the



junction with easterly rear boundary of Queenswood Avenue, Queenswood Avenue (rear boundary east side) to the junction with Town Lane, Town Lane (north side) to the junction with Townfield Lane and Townfield Lane (east side) to the junction with Bebington Road, Bebington Road (north side) to the junction with the Railway line (west side) to the junction with the Borough boundary, thence westwards along the Borough boundary to the junction with Old Chester Road (west side) to the junction with Kings Lane.

The Area is approximately 146 acres in size and comprises 1,170 privately owned dwellings, 49 local authority dwellings, 5 Industrial, 65 Commercial premises and 15 other premises. The total of 1,170 dwellings includes 223 dwellings belonging to the County Borough of Birkenhead.

The total estimated cost of replacements and conversions amounts to approximately £94,000. It is expected that the final estimated cost to the Local Authority will be £28,500. By the end of the year 636 estimates for approval had been received, and the preference for gas as a smokeless fuel was very noticeable.

The survey of our next Smoke Control Area No. 13 is now well under way and will be ready for submission to the Health Committee at the beginning of next year. When this Area is completed the first major phase in the Smoke Control programme for the Borough will have been completed, namely the north west part of the Borough, west of the Railway Line. Area No. 13 is bounded by the westerly side of the Chester/Birkenhead railway line, extending from the north side of Spital Road to the south side of Bebington Road and continuing along the easterly side of the Village and Church Road, thence westerly along the south side of Fairacres Road and Quarry Avenue and following a line to the junction with Cross Lane, thence continuing southwards along the easterly side of Cross Lane and Beechway to the junction with Spital Road, thence easterly along the north side of Spital Road to the railway line.

The Area is approximately 220 acres in size comprising 934 privately owned dwellings, 356 local authority dwellings, 34 commercial premises and 1 industrial premises and 8 others.

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Regular inspections were carried out at our Smoke Control Areas now in operation and these revealed that occupiers were co-operating in complying with the Order to burn only authorised smokeless fuels and that supplies were adequate.

Routine inspection of the industrial area, during the year, indicated that industrial concerns were well aware of their obligations in regard to Clean Air and no notices were required to be served for smoke nuisance offences.

Two applications were received during the year under Section 3 of the Clean Air Act 1956 for prior approval to instal furnaces. These applications were approved.

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## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Only a few complaints were received this year of offensive smells emanating from the industrial area.

Mention was made in last year's Annual Report of a serious nuisance caused to the residents of Port Causeway area from a fine white powdery deposit on houses, gardens and cars. At the time the Management of the factory producing soap powders realised that the water scrubber in one of the detergent towers was responsible for the trouble and in place "cyclones" have been fitted. Only one complaint has been received since the plant re-commenced operation and this occurred in the first two weeks.

During the early part of the year a serious nuisance occurred in the north part of Bromborough Pool Village when the dwellinghouses and Village Shop were covered in a white powder similar to a polycell paste, and this was due to a breakdown in the bag filters of the Sodium Carboxy Methyl Cellulose Plant which is in close proximity to the Village. This breakdown was caused when a plate separating two of the filter compartments, these being external to the process chamber, corroded owing to the action of salt and dampness and particles of Sodium Carboxy Methyl Cellulose escaped into the air as a result. Discussion with the Chief Engineer revealed that the present filter system was unsatisfactory and authority had been sought completely to replace this system. This would be situated within the main building and would be designed with a different filter form which should reduce the emission of powder to prevent a nuisance. In the meantime first aid measures were to be taken in the form of tarpaulins to prevent the cellulose from dispersing and to deflect it downwards round the base of the plant. Some patching was also carried out to the corroded plate but a more durable plating remedy would be carried out over the Easter holidays. The firm hoped that the new unit would be installed during July/August and this in fact was the case and regular observations since have revealed no further nuisances from this plant.

## NOISE NUISANCE

The Public Health Department have successfully dealt with, informally the few problems of industrial noise which have arisen during the last year. There has been no need to resort to legal action as in all cases the Public Health Inspectors have received the fullest co-operation from the management of the industries concerned.

The two cases causing nuisances over the widest area were due to Industrial fans from factories operating at night.

In both instances the factory management gave the Public Health Inspectors maximum assistance with the resultant abatement of the nuisances.

A case of particular interest which also illustrates the extent of this co-operation concerns a high-pitched whining noise heard over a fairly wide area late at night and in the early hours of the morning. Observations led to a mill where grains are ground as part of a manufacturing process for animal foodstuffs. Fans and grinding machinery were suspected. These were situated at ground floor level in a mill constructed of a light pre-fabricated material and of a considerable height. The noise at the source was not excessive but due to the nature and construction of the mill it was very much amplified and on the roof was very loud indeed and as has been stated was causing a nuisance over a wide area.

By arrangement with the management observations were carried out late at night and in the early hours of the morning and at pre-arranged times the fans and grinders were turned off separately and together. Complainants were asked to co-operate by stating at what time the noise of which they complained was heard, this confirmed without question that the fans were to blame. The management accepted this and a firm of acoustic specialists were instructed and eventually at a cost in excess of £2,000 separate silencers were provided for each of 10 fans and there have been no further complaints.

A purely local nuisance which has caused the Department some difficulty has occurred in a Building Plant Yard where alterations were taking place, pneumatic drills and compressors were in use, unmuffled and unscreened causing a great deal of local nuisance.

Compressor noise was easily dealt with by erecting simple screening, but the management appeared to have difficulty in persuading workmen to use mufflers on the drills. It is felt that it should be illegal to use unmuffled drills as this would help to obviate noise complaints of this nature and save the Public Health Inspectors time in observations and interviews.

## OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

By the end of the year a total of 432 premises had been registered under the Act. The number of persons employed at the premises were 2,336, this total being sub-divided into 858 males and 1,478 females.

The number of premises receiving a full general inspection during the year were:

Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Wholesale Premises and Warehouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

The total number of visits and re-visits during the year were 979 which resulted in 59 Informal Notices being served on 2 offices, 49 shops and 2 catering establishments. A total of 253 offences were found and are summarised as follows:

Section	Offices	Shops	Wholesale and Warehouses	Catering Establishments
4 Cleanliness ... ..	2	20	—	1
5 Overcrowding ... ..	1	—	—	—
6 Temperature ... ..	2	15	—	1
7 Ventilation ... ..	6	18	—	1
8 Lighting ... ..	5	28	—	1
9 Sanitary Conveniences ... ..	1	9	—	1
10 Washing Facilities ... ..	3	14	—	—
11 Drinking Water ... ..	1	5	—	—
12 Clothing Accommodation ... ..	—	6	—	—
13 Seating ... ..	—	1	—	1
15 Eating Facilities ... ..	—	5	—	—
16 Conditions of floors, passages and stairs ... ..	4	27	—	2
17 Guarding of Machinery ... ..	2	14	—	1
24 First Aid requirements ... ..	6	17	—	1
50 Absence of Information for the Employees ... ..	7	23	—	1

Nine accidents were notified during the year, none of these were fatal. Six occurred at Shops and three at Catering Establishments. All were investigated and it was revealed that at the shops two accidents were caused by employees being struck by a falling object, one a fall, one striking against an object, one handling of goods and one by the use of hand tools. Four of the employers were given informal advice and in two cases no action was found necessary.

At the Catering Establishments two involved falls and one striking against an object. In these cases one prosecution was recommended, one formal warning given and informal advice given in the other case.



The most serious accident and the one for which prosecution was recommended, involved a barmaid falling down an open trap door at the rear of the bar in a Public House. The requirements of Section 16(4) – guarding of openings in floors – had been complied with but an offence under Section 27 was committed by a barman going down the cellar and leaving the trap door open and not placing the guard chains in position. The Council decided not to institute legal proceedings in this case but sent a formal warning to the barman, manager and the Brewery Company. The Brewery have since attached the following notice to the wall above the grab bar by the trap door:

**WARNING—MAKE SURE THAT GUARD CHAINS ARE IN POSITION  
WHEN CELLAR IS OPEN.**

A case of interest is as follows:

In November the Inspector dealing with the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act received a sub poena to give evidence for the defendant in a case where a woman who had been assistant in the defendant's shop claimed damages following an accident. The accident in which the claimant fractured her left femur occurred in July 1965. It was caused by her tripping over a loose carpet and falling to the floor. Investigation at that time revealed that the carpet was in good condition, and the linoleum floor covering beneath was not polished or slippery. There were no offences at the premises relevant to the accident. The Inspector gave evidence to this effect but despite this the case was found proved and substantial damages were awarded to the claimant.

It was stated that any loose carpet on a wooden or linoleum covered floor could be a danger, also that a fold in a carpet was an obstruction even though only momentarily.

**Factories Acts, 1937 and 1959**

The number of factories at the end of the year totalled 164. The following tables show the results of inspection in the form required by the Minister of Labour.

**TABLE IX**

**I. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.**

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written notices	Numbers of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities... ..	22	13	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	112	32	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	30	12	1	—
Total ... ..	164	57	4	—

# TABLE X

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	4	4	—	—	—

# TABLE XI

## 3. OUTWORKERS

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (b) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel (Making)	1	—	—	—	—	—

## **GENERAL SANITATION**

### **Water Supply**

The Wirral Water Board supply water from four sources, Prenton, Mouldsworth, Hooton and Sutton Hall. The first three named are underground supplies, the last one is River Dee derived.

The supply in the area has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations are carried out on the raw water and on the treated water at regular intervals by the Board's Chemist and in addition quarterly bacteriological and chemical examinations are made by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London. In all cases the results have shown a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

The fluoride content of the supplies is less than 0.1 p.p.m. in all cases.

Unfortunately no separate figures are available for the Bebington area with regard to the number of dwelling houses and the number of population supplied from public water mains direct to the houses, or by means of stand-pipes.

### **Sewerage**

The main drainage works at Eastham are expected to commence next year and the duration of the Contract will be for two years after which surcharging of existing sewers and surface flooding in Eastham should be abated.

It is hoped that builders sewers will be extended in the Blakeley Road area with a view to eliminating septic tanks from existing properties and alleviating pollution of the Clatter Stream.

Plans are to be prepared for the provision of sewers and sewage disposal plant at the rural village of Brimstage.

### **House Drainage**

During the year 405 complaints of choked drains were received by the Department. Testing and examination of drains resulted in 2,004 visits being made, 124 informal notices and 10 statutory notices being served.

### **Public Conveniences**

Public Conveniences were regularly inspected throughout the year and all nuisances and defects reported to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor were remedied without delay.

## **Tips**

No complaints were received from the public during the year regarding the Spital Refuse Tip and routine visits showed the Tip to be well worked and controlled.

## **Pet Shops:**

There are three Pet Shops registered with the Local Authority and inspections revealed the premises to have a high standard of cleanliness.

## **Animal Boarding Establishments**

The four Animal Boarding Establishments registered were found to be well kept and the facilities provided for the animals were satisfactory.

## **Riding Establishments**

Two Riding Establishments are licenced with the Council. These licences were approved by the Health Committee on the recommendations of a Veterinary Certificate.

## **Schools**

Routine visits were again made to schools to inspect kitchens, dining halls, conveniences and ablutions. In all cases where defects were found the Divisional Educational Officer was informed.

## **Disinfestation**

The Health Department provides a disinfestation service for the destruction of insect pests of all kinds. In addition to this, treatment of bedding and clothing can be undertaken by steam disinfestation.

The following figures show the number of premises treated:

- 4 Household bed bugs
- 15 Houses for woodworm infestation.
- 270 Houses for other vermin.

## **RODENT CONTROL**

During the year two cases of rat infestation in the New Ferry Area proved unsuccessful after treatment with Warfarin. These two cases were subsequently treated satisfactorily with the poison Racumin 57.

The main problem, however, was the widespread infestation of mice found to be resistant to Warfarin. A new narcotic poison called Alphakil was used extremely effectively except in four cases. The one disadvantage of this poison is that it is only effective if the room temperature is below 60°F. In the four cases referred to above the infestations were in dwellings which had full central heating with a temperature of above 60°F. These cases were treated with the acute poison Zinc Phosphide under strict supervision.

The following statistics indicate the work carried out during the year:

- Major Primary Infestation of 20 and over.
- Minor Secondary Infestation of up to 20.

TABLE XII

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses including Council Houses	All other including Business Premises	Total of Columns 1, 2 & 3	Agricultural
Total number of Properties inspected as a result of Survey or otherwise ...	120	504	145	769	12
Total inspections carried out including re-inspections ...	596	2596	777	3969	44
No. of Properties inspected which were found to be infested by:					
Rats ... Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ...	81	280	100	461	—
Mice ... Major ...	—	—	—	—	—
Minor ...	5	62	24	91	—
No. of infested properties treated by L.A. ...	86	342	124	552	12
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments ...	417	1582	636	2635	22
Types of visits made:					
Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses) ...					2596
L.A. Property (1) Tips and non agricultural work...					103
(2) Sewage Works ...					27
(3) Other Buildings ...					466
Business Premises (1) Factories and Workplaces ...					459
(2) Shops ...					86
(3) Places of Entertainment ...					2
(4) Licensed Premises ...					6
(5) Cafes and Canteens ...					—
(6) Non-agricultural land ...					20
Agricultural Properties (1) Market Gardens and Farms ...					21
(2) Piggeries ...					7
(3) Agricultural land ...					16
Other Authority Properties (1) Schools ...					143
(2) Hospitals ...					61
					4013
No. of Dwelling House contracts signed ...					290
No. of Estimates provided (Industry and Business premises) ...					48
No. of Contracts signed ...					48
Value of Estimates during 1968 ...					£394 15 0



## FOOD & DRUGS ACT 1955 — FOOD HYGIENE

Food hygiene continues to be one of our most important functions and generally the fullest co-operation is received from the trade. There is a growing awareness that good food hygiene practice is not a "fad" but an essential part of the business.

Particular attention is given by public health inspectors to stock rotation which due to the increase in refrigeration for the display and sale of perishable goods is of great importance. Another tendency which needs regular attention is the overloading of refrigerated display/sale cabinets.

Regular inspections of the Borough are made to keep control of food hawkers and once again we experience full co-operation from the traders. However, they are not always aware that registration with the Local Authority is necessary.

### FOOD PREMISES

Registered Premises under the Food & Drugs Act	Preserving and frying of food ...	...	...	...	67
	Ice Cream ...	...	...	...	153
Registration of Hawkers under the Cheshire County Council Act, 1953 ...					52

Type of Premises	Number of premises	Number of premises with wash hand basin	Number of premises required to be fitted with sinks	Number of premises with sinks
Kitchens and Canteens	26	26	—	26
Cafes and Snack Bars	22	22	—	22
Butchers	39	39	—	39
Bakehouses	5	5	—	5
School Canteens	26	26	—	26
Clubs and Licensed Premises	48	48	—	48
Supermarkets	18	18	—	18
Grocers and Provisions	42	42	—	42
Greengrocers, Fruit and Fish	34	34	1	32
Fried Fish Shops	14	14	—	14
Small Mixed Food Shops	31	31	—	27
Sweets and Tobacco and Small Grocers	64	64	—	3
Confectioners	18	18	—	18
Chemists	20	20	—	20

### Meat Inspection

The slaughterhouses quickly returned to normal after the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak and the work of ensuring the supply of wholesome and disease free meat to the public continued.

On the 31st December 1968, however, the Hr. Bebington Slaughterhouse closed permanently and so ended many years of association with the department, which extended to well before the War.

Meat inspection still continues at New Ferry.

**TABLE XIII**

**NEW FERRY**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed ...	63	—	—	478	—	541
Ante-mortem in- spection including supervision of humane slaughter	63	—	—	478	—	541
Notice of slaughter received ...	63	—	—	478	—	541
Emergency notifications ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-mortem inspection ...	63	—	—	478	—	541
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis:</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	10	—	—	44	—	54
Percentage of number affected	15.8%	—	—	9.2%	—	9.98%

## HIGHER BEBINGTON

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed ...	3,325	188	23	8,983	4,813	17,332
Ante-mortem in- spection including supervision of humane slaughter	3,325	188	23	8,983	4,813	17,332
Notice of slaughter received ...	3,325	188	23	8,983	4,813	17,332
Emergency notifications ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-mortem inspection ...	3,325	188	23	8,983	4,813	17,332

### Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	28	28
Percentage of number affected	—	—	—	—	0.58%	0.16%

### All Diseases except Tuberculosis:

Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	17	8	25
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1,721	51	1	1,286	956	4,015
Percentage of number affected	51.7%	27.12%	4.3%	14.4%	20%	23.3%

### Other Condemned Food

The following table indicates tinned and other goods found to be unsound following notification or visits to warehouses, canteens and shops:

6,038 tins of Meat	4 tins Instant Coffee
50 tins of Fruit and Vegetables	10 pkts. Biscuits
2 tins of Fruit Juice	96 lbs. Bacon
3 jars Jam	56 lbs. Pork
14 bags Flour	45 lbs. Beef
	49½ lbs. Mutton



7 jars Piccalilli	576 pkts. Crisps
2 cartons Yoghurt	63 Chickens
1 tin Fish	1 Turkey
4 tins Soup	104 pkts. Sugar
2 tins Rice Pudding	288 blocks of Chocolate
432 pkts. Oxo	6 Lamb Carcases
393 jars Oxo	41½ lbs. Ham
1 pkt. Ground Almonds	
38 tins Cream	

Due to refrigeration breakdown the following frozen foods were condemned:

141 pkts. Beef	9 pkts. Croquettes
125 pkts. Steaklets	8 pkts. Sweet Corn
227 pkts. Hamburgers	6 pkts. Artic Rolls
227 pkts. Braised Beef	104 pkts. Crisps
218 pkts. Beefburgers	20 pkts. Sweet Dessert
10 pkts. Shepherds Pie	32 cartons Orange Juice
8 pkts. Sausage Rolls	128 Meat Pies
79 pkts. Rissoles	6 Steak & Kidney Pies
96 pkts. Faggots	7 Cornish Pasties
13 pkts. Yorkshire Puddings	3 Potato Pies
1,743 pkts. Fish	1 Chicken & Ham Pie
68 pkts Fish Cakes	85 lbs. Beef
166 pkts. Fruit	130 lbs. Pork
453 pkts. Vegetables	52 lbs. Lamb
31 pkts. Mousse	30 lbs. Lambs Liver
13 pkts. Chips	36 lbs. Lambs Hearts
15 pkts. Cakes	16 lbs. Ox Liver
7 pkts. Savouries	108 lbs. Cheese
6 Chickens	

## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS 1963

The total number of licences issued under the above Regulations at the end of the year totalled:

Untreated Milk	...	...	...	...	82 Dealers
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	82 Dealers
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	82 Dealers
Ultra Heat Treated	...	...	...	...	82 Dealers

# SAMPLES OF MILK FOR BIOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL TESTS

## TABLE XIV

### Tests for Tuberculosis Milk and Brucella Infected Milk

No. of samples taken	Designation	Satisfactory	Not satisfactory
11	Untreated Milk	11	NIL

In addition the County Medical Officer of Health reports that his staff took samples of Milk from one herd in the Borough producing Untreated Milk for sale to the public. Details are given below:

	Total Submitted	No. of Brucella Positive
Bulk samples ... ..	5	—
Dealer samples (Herd samples) ... ..	7	—
Individual Cow samples ... ..	—	—
Total ... ..	12	—

## TABLE XV

### Tests for Keeping Quality

No. of samples taken	Designation	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
39	Pasteurised	37	2
11	Untreated	10	1
7	Sterilised	—	—

## TABLE XVI

### Tests for Adequate Pasteurisation or Sterilisation

No. of samples taken	Designation	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
39	Pasteurised	39	NIL
7	Sterilised	7	NIL

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ICE CREAM

During 1968 the undermentioned samples of Ice Cream were purchased and sent to the Public Health Laboratories, Chester, for examination.

Results:	8 samples	Grade I	Satisfactory
	1 sample	Grade II	Satisfactory
	1 sample	Grade III	Unsatisfactory

The unsatisfactory sample was found on investigation to be due to unsatisfactory storage and attention to stock rotation. The vendor was suitably advised and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

During the year the department became aware of an increase in the number of mobile ice cream vendors in the area. All of these traders are from outside Bebington and should, of course, be registered with the Council. They are not easy to trace as they mostly make their appearance in the late afternoon and early evening. Considerable time has been spent finding these vendors, who when traced, are asked to make application for registration and the vans are thoroughly inspected, emphasis being laid on the provision of proper washing facilities.

In general the standard has been satisfactory.

## SWIMMING BATH WATER

TABLE XVII

### Bacteriological Sampling:

72 samples were taken from New Ferry, Port Sunlight and Clatterbridge Hospital Pools.

### Results of Examination:

	Number Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
New Ferry	24	20	4
Port Sunlight	16	15	1
Clatterbridge Staff Pool	16	12	4
Clatterbridge Spastic Pool	16	12	4

The unsatisfactory samples from New Ferry and Port Sunlight Baths were taken during extremely busy periods when the bathing loads were high. Generally the samples from these pools are of a high standard.

The unsatisfactory samples from the Spastic Pool at Clatterbridge were taken immediately following a maintenance period when the filters had been flushed – generally the samples were satisfactory.

The Staff Pool again produced four unsatisfactory samples and unauthorised and improper use continues to be a problem.

In all cases of unsatisfactory samples discussions take place with the managers of the Pools concerned with a view to ascertaining the cause and its remedies.

TABLE XVIII

# BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODSTUFFS IN GENERAL

During 1968, 72 samples of Miscellaneous foods were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories at Chester for bacteriological examination.

Sample			Number Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Meat and Potato Pie	...		2	2	—
Cream Cakes	...	...	6	5	1
Steak and Kidney Pies	...		3	3	—
Steak Pie	...	...	2	2	—
Cream Trifle	...	...	1	1	—
Cornish Pasty	...	...	2	2	—
Sweets	...	...	1	1	—
Minced Beef	...	...	2	2	—
Roast Beef	...	...	4	3	1
Meat Pie	...	...	4	4	—
Sausage Roll	...	...	1	1	—
Wrapped Chelsea Bun	...		1	1	—
Ham Roll	...	...	2	2	—
Pork Pie	...	...	1	1	—
Chopped Pork	...	...	1	1	—
Salmon Paste	...	...	1	1	—
Ham	...	...	14	13	1
Roast Pork...	...	...	3	2	1
Ox Tongue	...	...	2	2	—
Pork Luncheon Meat	...		2	2	—
Belgian Liver Sausage	...		1	1	—
Brawn	...	...	2	2	—
Pork Sausage	...	...	3	1	2
Cooked Chicken	...	...	4	4	—
Toffee Apple	...	...	1	1	—
Ulster Fry	...	...	1	1	—
Chopped Ham and Pork	...		1	1	—
Egg and Ham Roll	...		1	1	—
Bacon	...	...	3	3	—
<b>Totals</b>	...	...	<b>72</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>6</b>

The six unsatisfactory samples were all due to the presence of faecal coli. Where this occurs in raw meat it is of no great significance although the opportunity is taken to stress good personal hygiene. In the case of the cooked meats and cream cake a more serious view is taken and the Public Health Inspectors take appropriate action.

# TABLE XIX

The following table refers to specimens and samples taken in connection with suspected food poisoning and associated cases.

Type	No. Taken	Result
Faeces	289	*21 Shigella Sonnei 11 Salmonella Typhimurium 7 Salmonella Oranienberg 2 Enteritidis 248 Negative

\*This figure comprises the total number of positive specimens obtained during the investigation of a smaller number of cases (e.g. if a case was a long time clearing up we might have got four or five positive specimens from the same person).

## FOOD & DRUG SAMPLING Nature, Substance and Quality

# TABLE XX

Article	No. of samples of each article examined			No. of samples of each article regarded as adulterated		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Raw Farm Milk ...	—	24	24	—	—	—
Channel Island Milk ...	—	6	6	—	—	—
Pasteurised Milk ...	1	25	26	1	—	1
Sterilised Milk ...	—	3	3	—	—	—
Cough Mixture ...	—	3	3	—	—	—
Marmalade ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Rose Hip Syrup ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chunky Steak with Gravy ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chocolate Liquid Vodka ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chocolate Liquid Whisky ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chocolate Liquid Cherry Brandy ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chocolate Liquid Apricot Brandy ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Iced Cake ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sweets ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Creamed Cereal ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Vegetable and Chicken ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Creamed Potatoes ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Low Calorie Lemonade ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Instant Whip ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Quick Jel ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Anchovy ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lobster ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Swiss Pate ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Stewed Steak ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Raspberry Foam Crystas ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Plum Jam ...	—	1	1	—	—	—

Article	No. of samples of each article examined			No. of samples of each article regarded as adulterated		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Slices of Bread ... ..	—	1	1	—	1	1
Chocolate Cake Covering ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Indian Brandee ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chopped Chicken and Cereal...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pork Luncheon Meat ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ham and Beef Roll ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Egg Custard with Rice... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chicken Broth with Vegetables	—	1	1	—	—	—
Nutmeg ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemonade Shandy ... ..	—	2	2	—	—	—
Liver and Bacon Spread ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Orange Drink ... ..	—	3	3	—	—	—
Dehydrated Chicken Soup ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Shrimps ... ..	—	2	2	—	—	—
Corned Beef ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Milk Shake Syrup ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemonade ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Nut Spread ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Spaghetti Sauce... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Vanilla Sugar ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sauce Bolognaise ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Horse Raddish Sauce ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cochineal Extract ... ..	—	1	1	—	1	1
Liquid Mauve Colouring ... ..	—	1	1	—	1	1
Smoked Salmon Mayonnaise ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Coffee Flavour Table Cream ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
Hot Dog Sausages ... ..	—	2	2	—	—	—
Cake ... ..	—	1	1	—	1	1
Lunch Tongues ... ..	—	2	2	—	—	—
Syrup of Figs ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Strawberry Wish ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Creamed Potatoes ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Lemon Filling ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Toasty Grills ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Grape Nuts ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Strawberry Mousse ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Green Beans ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Irish Stew ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Baby Cereal ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Peeled Tomatoes ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Tinned Crab ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cheese Spread ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Evaporated Milk ... ..	—	1	1	—	—	—
Mineral Water ... ..	—	2	2	—	2	2
<b>Totals</b> ... ..	1	133	134	1	6	7

	Milk Fat	Non-Fatty Solids	Water
Milk average for the year ...	3.76%	8.84%	87.4%
Legal minimum standard ...	3.0%	8.5%	—
Channel Island Milk			
Average for the year ...	4.98%	9.16%	85.86%
Legal minimum standard ...	4.0%	8.5%	—



# TABLE XXI

## DETAILS OF SAMPLES ADULTERATED OR BELOW STANDARD

Sample No.	Article	Formal or Informal	Nature of Adulteration	Action Taken
1	Mineral Water	Informal	Contaminated with Phenolic Compounds to 180 p.p.m. phenol.	Manufacturers and Retailer warned.
2	Mineral Water	Informal	Contaminated with Phenolic Compounds to 180 p.p.m. phenol.	Manufacturers and Retailer warned.
3	Bread	... Informal	Contaminated with foreign matter which resembled bandage and impregnated with yellow flavine dye having the characteristics of acriflavine.	Manufacturer/Retailer fined £25.
4	Cochineal Extract	... Informal	Not labelled in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 2 of the Colouring Matter in Food Regulations 1966	Wholesaler warned – label altered to conform with Regulations
5	2 Liquid Mauve Colouring	Informal		
6	Cake ...	... Informal		
7	Milk ...	... Formal	Sample of Cake together with assorted foreign matter Contained 73% extraneous water. 96.7% water, 0.8% fat and 2.5% solids-not-fat.	Manufacturer warned. Dairy and caterer warned.

## Action taken under the Food and Drugs Act and Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959

1.	Foreign matter in loaf of bread	...	...	Manufacturers warned
2.	Foreign matter in blackcurrant tart	...	...	Manufacturer/Retailer warned
3.	Insect in tin Pineapple Chunks	...	...	Wholesaler warned
4.	Piece of glass in Curried Rice...	...	...	Wholesaler warned
5.	Large twig in bottle milk	...	...	Wholesaler warned
6.	Dirt adhering to inside bottle of milk	...	...	Wholesaler warned
7.	Straw in bottle milk	...	...	Wholesaler warned
8.	Bottle of Lemonade tasting of Disinfectant	...	...	Retailer & Wholesaler warned
9.	Discolouration in tins vegetable and liver broth	...	...	Wholesaler warned
10.	Discolouration in tins beef broth	...	...	Wholesaler warned
11.	Bottle of Lemonade tasting of Disinfectant	...	...	Wholesaler & Retailer warned
12.	Mould in packet of crisps	...	...	Manufacturers warned
13.	Foreign bodies in bottle beer...	...	...	Bottlers warned
14.	Sour Sausages	...	...	Retailer warned

15. Grease streaks in loaf of bread	...	...	Manufacturers warned
16. Piece of gauze in Sliced Loaf	...	...	Manufacturers prosecuted and fined £25
17. Mould growth in loaf	...	...	Manufacturer/Retailer warned
18. Dirt in bottle of milk	...	...	Wholesaler warned
19. Foreign body in tin tomatoes...	...	...	Wholesaler warned
20. Foreign body in Beef and Gravy Dinner	...	...	Manufacturers warned
21. Piece of metal in tin Country Supper	...	...	Manufacturers warned
22. Cheese skipper in cheese	...	...	Retailer warned
23. Insect larvae in canned tomatoes	...	...	Wholesaler warned
24. Foreign body in piece of cake	...	...	Retailer warned
25. Oil in sliced bread	...	...	Retailer warned
26. Cigarette end in loaf	...	...	Manufacturers warned
27. Green deposit in milk bottle	...	...	Wholesalers warned
28. Piece of plastic in Trifle	...	...	Manufacturers warned
29. Larvae in Walnut Kernals	...	...	Wholesaler & Retailer warned
30. Foreign body in chewing gum	...	...	Manufacturer warned
31. Lead slugs in can Jugged Hare	...	...	Wholesaler warned
32. Mould growth in cake	...	...	Manufacturer/retailer warned
33. Maggots in pkt. Porridge Oats	...	...	Wholesaler warned

### SHOPS ACT, 1960

### YOUNG PERSONS EMPLOYMENT ACT, 1938

The Chief Public Health Inspector who is Chief Inspector under the above mentioned Acts, reports that during the year the following warnings were given in regard to offences:

Mixed Business Notices not provided	...	6
Failing to exhibit Sunday Trades Notice	...	2



CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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BEBINGTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH  
COMMITTEE

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DIVISIONAL  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1968

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Divisional Health Office,  
Town Hall,  
BEBINGTON,  
Cheshire.

**CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**BEBINGTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**  
**(At 31st December, 1968)**

**Representing Bebington Borough Council**

*Chairman:* Councillor Mrs. D. GOODFELLOW  
*Deputy Chairman:* Alderman Mrs. E. B. WILLIAMS  
*Aldermen:*  
R. EVANS  
H. GARNER  
*Councillors:*  
R. BEVAN  
B. A. BRYNING, J.P.  
E. V. M. CRAPPER  
Mrs. H. G. HEBRON  
Mrs. J. L. GREEN  
H. HARRIMAN  
W. LUNGLEY  
Mrs. S. A. PRICE

---

**Representing Cheshire County Council**

County Alderman Miss B. E. WILSON, J.P.  
County Councillor Mrs. E. POWL  
County Councillor G. POWELL

**Ex-Officio Members**

County Alderman Sir GEORGE ASTBURY, J.P.  
County Councillor A. RICHARDSON

---

**Representative Members**

R. A. FORSYTHE, Esq., J.P.

Dr. B. CURRUTHERS

A. F. DRAKE, Esq.

J. J. BROWN, Esq.

Mrs. M. Melladay

J. H. SPEED, Esq.

Mrs. M. GITTINS

A. L. RADCLIFFE, Esq.

**Representing**

Bebington Divisional Executive for Education.  
County Palatine of Chester Local Medical Committee.  
County Palatine of Chester Local Dental Committee.  
Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee.  
Wirral Society for Mentally Handicapped Children.  
Bebington Old People's Welfare Committee.

## DIVISIONAL AND COUNTY STAFF

<i>Divisional Medical Officer</i>	...	H. C. Jennings, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.
<i>Clerk to the Divisional Health Committee</i>	... ..	G. Chappell, O.B.E., LL.B.
<i>Assistant County Medical Officers</i>		Jessie Tough, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Helen Brass, M.B., B.A.O., B.Ch.
<i>Divisional Administrative Assistant</i>		W. R. Turner
<i>Health Visitors</i>	... ..	Mrs. E. Jones, Mrs. M. Morris (from 1.10.68) Miss E. Nicholson, Mrs. E. J. Norman, Miss D. Roberts, Miss D. V. Stamper (to 30.9.68) Miss D. K. Whyte, Mrs. M. Woodbridge
<i>Clinic Nurses</i>	... ..	Mrs. E. M. Ellis, Mrs. M. Wightman, (from 29.7.68)
<i>Home Nurses</i>	... ..	Mrs. B. Baker, E. Cochrane, Mrs. A. Davies, Mrs. I. M. Eden, Miss M. G. Griffiths, Mrs. M. R. Heatley, Mrs. M. Jelley, Mrs. R. Kophamel, Mrs. E. Martlew (to 11.12.68)
<i>Midwives</i>	... ..	Mrs. N. C. Birkett (to 26.8.68) Mrs. D. Clarke, Mrs. C. R. Green, Miss J. V. Joyce, Mrs. M. C. O'Brien
<i>Area Mental Welfare Officer</i>	...	E. M. Harborow
<i>Mental Welfare Officers</i>	...	D. T. Rattray (Deputy) A. J. Hotchkiss, Mrs. C. Ledson Mrs. P. M. Tomkins, K. V. Williams
<i>Matron, Day Nursery</i>	... ..	Mrs. W. I. Boulton
<i>Supervisor, Junior Training Centre</i>		Mrs. M. Sutton
<i>Home Help Supervisor</i>	... ..	Mrs. J. M. Bryne
<i>Occupational Therapist</i>	... ..	Mrs. V. B. Van der Horst (from 1.9.68)
<i>Clerical Staff</i>	... ..	Mrs. M. L. Bartholomew, Mrs. E. Bieniek, Mrs. J. Buchanan, (to 31.10.68) Mrs. E. Davies, Mrs. E. Insley, Miss N. Mackay, Mrs. O. Rice, Mrs. L. Satterthwaite, O. H. Smith (from 18.11.68) Mrs. S. Whitehouse.

## ASSOCIATED CONSULTANTS

<i>Chest Physician</i>	...	H. N. C. Bleasdale, M.B., Ch. B.
<i>Obstetrician</i>	...	J. A. Bentham, M.B., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
<i>Gynaecologists</i>	...	W. Gault, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., M.R.C.O.G.
<i>Ophthalmic Surgeon</i>	...	J. D. E. Edwards, M.B., Ch.B., D.O.M.S., R.C.P.S.I.
<i>Paediatrician</i>	... ..	K. R. Llewellyn, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P., D.C.H.
<i>Physician</i>	... ..	P. Robinson, M.D., M.R.C.P.
<i>Physician (Geriatrics)</i>	...	J. Aitken, M.B., M.R.C.P.

## TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BEBINGTON DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Certain new services were initiated during the year. Several hundred young children were vaccinated against measles as part of the Medical Research Council scheme. Then, suddenly convinced of the efficacy and safety of measles vaccination, the Minister of Health exhorted the local health authorities to immunise all primary school children (up to the age of 9) in the course of the next few months. Consent forms and notes on the subject were distributed to parents through the schools and I am grateful to the divisional executive officer and the teachers for their ready co-operation. It turned out eventually that less than 20% of the children in question required protection and these were dealt with by a team which visited the schools. Measles vaccination is now a routine part of the immunisation programme and is carried out early in the second year of life before the natural illness can inflict its harm. Reactions have been common but, generally speaking, of no significance. It is hoped that a permanent immunity will be achieved but time alone can substantiate this hope. There is, however, no doubt that the vaccine is preventing measles.

Family planning clinics were held regularly throughout the year. The evening session at Eastham was very well attended and has evidently met a widespread need in that area. There have been low attendances at the New Ferry sessions but there are demographic differences between the Northern and Southern halves of the borough. Apart from this, facilities have existed for some time at a family planning clinic in Oxton Road, Birkenhead, and some prefer to remain associated with this. The County Council provides examination, advice and treatment free for those who are considered to require this service for good medical or social reasons.

Detailed plans were completed for the forthcoming health department buildings but no construction work commenced until early in 1969. I am glad to say that a local partnership of general practitioners decided that they would do well to participate in a health centre project and it has been possible to amend our plans accordingly. It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good and I am certain that had building progress been made according to schedule it would have proved too late to alter the project and accommodate the doctors. A similar scheme is envisaged in New Ferry and may well occupy the site of the present clinic and its surrounds. The County health and architect's departments are so busily engaged on Health Centre projects throughout the county that it will necessarily be about two years before plans can be implemented in New Ferry.

In the spring of 1968 the Ellesmere Port Round Table very kindly gave me a 12-seater Commer minibus to be used for any purpose which I consider worthwhile. Accordingly it was soon employed to transport certain disabled people to the Bromborough club, to take children on outings from the Junior Training Centre, and patients to the Woodchurch baths for hydrotherapy – to mention only three of its functions. The running costs of the vehicle are met by the County Council and I am grateful to the Borough for free garage facilities.

Later in the year we secured the part-time services of an occupational therapist and first of all an effort was made to visit and assess the circumstances of relatively young disabled people about whom we knew very little. Our purpose was largely twofold – to recommend and provide means of reducing the handicap within the house, and to estimate the employability of the patient in one form or another. Home work is a poor substitute for normal employment but for some unable to manage the latter it may be the only alternative. Thanks to the co-operation and enthusiasm of a local firm a scheme is slowly evolving whereby I hope eventually to provide home work for all suitable patients who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity.

It is usual in these preambles to talk of policy and progress, with no mention of the immense amount of routine work contributed by the field staff – the district nurses, health visitors, midwives, ambulance personnel, day nursery and junior training centre staff, and home helps. I have not listed these in any order of merit or achievement and would like to record my thanks to them all for their cheerful, conscientious endeavours in serving and promoting the health of the community.

Under the able direction of Mr. Turner the small office staff has again in 1968 coped well with the mounting volume of work and its changing pattern. My thanks are due particularly to Mr. Turner, Mrs. Bieniek, the chairman and the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff for their help.

H. C. JENNINGS,  
Divisional Medical Officer.

30th June, 1969



# NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

## HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISIONAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### Section 22 — Care of Mothers and Young Children

#### (i) Day Nursery

The average daily attendance was 25.0 as compared to 23.0 in 1967.

The average number of priority cases on the register throughout the year was 29.

**TABLE I**

Total number of priority cases attended during 1968	TYPE OF PRIORITY CASE					
	Illegiti- mate children	Parents separated/ Divorced	Mother widowed	Mentally Hand- icapped children	Other (medico/ social	Mother Teaching
56	14	12	1	6	13	10

Table II shows attendances made during the year:

**TABLE II**

	0—2 years	2—5 years	Total
Average daily attendance	1419	4698	6117
	6	19	25

Whereas local health authority day nurseries still cater for mothers who must work, more private day nurseries and play groups are appearing in this country, and these are used rather by mothers who merely prefer to follow some employment or who believe that certain developmental advantages will be conferred on their children. For similar reasons we believe that young handicapped and retarded children may sometimes benefit by attending the day nursery and respite may be afforded to their mothers. There were ten registered play groups in the borough by the end of the year.

#### (ii) Mothers' Clinics

##### (a) Ante-Natal and Post-Natal

Combined ante-natal and post-natal clinics are held at the New Ferry Clinic Centre on Wednesday mornings and the Clinic Centre, Eastham on Friday mornings. The mothers are examined by the consultant obstetrician and advice and education about pregnancy and infant care is given by the health visitors.



**TABLE III**

		New Cases	Total Attendances
New Ferry	Ante-Natal	42	290
	Post-Natal	—	7
Eastham	Ante-Natal	151	610
	Post-Natal	—	28

**(b) Preparation Class**

Preparation classes are held weekly at the Clinic Centre, Eastham on Monday mornings and at New Ferry Clinic Centre on Monday afternoons. These clinics are run by a Health Visitor and a physiotherapist. The midwives attend whenever their duties allow.

Table IV gives the attendances made during the year —

**TABLE IV**

	New Cases	Attendances
New Ferry	65	462
Eastham	103	674

**(iii) Infant Welfare Clinics**

There are two permanent clinics in the borough, one at New Ferry where an infant welfare clinic is held each Wednesday afternoon and one at Eastham where a clinic is held every Monday afternoon. In addition there are weekly infant clinics held in rented premises at Mayer Hall, Bebington on Friday afternoons; at Victoria Hall, Higher Bebington, on Tuesday afternoons and at Bromborough Council Offices on Thursday mornings. Thornton Hough clinic continued during the year on a fortnightly basis.

During the year 8291 attendances were made as compared to 9462 in 1967 and 9938 in 1966.

**TABLE V**

Total attendances and new cases at infant welfare clinics during 1968

	Attendances		New Cases under 1 year
	Under 1 year	1—5 years	
New Ferry	1322	236	146
Eastham	1877	202	210
Higher Bebington	1153	298	133
Bromborough	1354	249	136
Lower Bebington	1011	304	104
Thornton Hough	192	93	12
	6909	1382	741
	8291		

#### (iv) Young Children's Clinics

A routine inspection of certain toddlers is carried out for the early detection of physical and mental defects.

Table VI gives the figures of attendance —

**TABLE VI**

Clinic	Attendances
New Ferry Clinic Centre	35
Mayer Hall	76
Eastham Clinic Centre	44*
Bromborough Council Offices	63*

\* "At Risk" Children

#### (v) Ancillary Services and Special Clinics Held in County Council Clinic Premises

##### (a) Ophthalmic Clinic

A combined session for pre-school and school children is held each Thursday morning at New Ferry Clinic Centre and once fortnightly on a Thursday afternoon at Eastham Clinic Centre.

New cases and attendances of children under five:

**TABLE VII**

	New Cases	Attendances
New Ferry Clinic Centre	25	114
Eastham Clinic Centre	5	54

**(b) Paediatric Clinic**

Consultant clinics continued to be held every Tuesday morning at New Ferry Clinic Centre and each Friday afternoon at the Clinic Centre, Eastham.

**TABLE VIII**

	New Cases	Attendances
New Ferry Clinic Centre	37	177
Eastham Clinic Centre	66	282

**(c) Blood Investigations**

Arrangements exist at New Ferry Clinic Centre for mothers and children to undergo simple blood tests if they are considered advisable by the paediatrician or obstetrician.

**(d) Hearing Clinics for Young Children**

These are conducted by Health visitors who, if in doubt, refer children to Assistant County Medical Officers.

Whilst ideally every child should be tested and so far as possible this is done, attention is paid more particularly to children "at risk" i.e., children born with other congenital abnormalities, or children with Rh neg. mothers or congenitally deaf close relatives, etc.

**TABLE IX**

Clinic	New Cases			Re-tests		
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5
New Ferry Clinic Centre ... ..	102	4	7	2	2	5
Bromborough Council Offices ... ..	168	5	2	36	5	—
Eastham Clinic Centre ... ..	212	2	2	41	4	3
Mayer Hall ... ..	80	15	2	2	2	—
Victoria Hall ... ..	70	13	9	3	1	4

No child during the year was found to be deaf.

**(vi) Branded Infant Foods**

The sale of branded infant foods at child welfare clinics during the year realised £3,027 as compared to £3,512 in 1967.

**(vii) Welfare Foods**

New Ferry and Eastham clinics are the main distribution centres and are open for this purpose each morning from Monday to Friday between 9.0 a.m. and 12 noon and on the afternoons of the infant welfare clinics.

During the year the following Welfare Foods were issued and the comparative figures for 1967 are shown in brackets —

National Dried Milk (20 oz. tin – 2/4d.)	4,425	(4,815)
Cod Liver Oil (6 oz. bottle – 1/-d.)	714	(706)
Vitamin A & D Tablets (6d.)	956	(1,350)
Orange Juice (6 oz. bottle – 1/6d.)	15,479	(16,446)

**SECTION 23 — MIDWIFERY SERVICE**

The establishment of midwives for the area is five (in practice, four).

The midwives now hold Ante-Natal Clinics weekly at the New Ferry Clinic Centre and the Clinic Centre, Eastham for their own booked cases. Births notified to the borough during the year:

**TABLE X**

Home confinements	99
Hospital confinements	871
	<hr/>
	970
	<hr/>

The number of domiciliary confinements continues to fall as the institutional confinements increase. This however means much maternity nursing for the domiciliary midwives because of the number of “short-stay” hospital confinements.

**SECTION 24 — HEALTH VISITING**

The establishment of health visitors for the division is eight.

Routine work was carried out in the ante-natal, infant welfare and young children’s clinic, and in specialists clinics in geriatrics, obstetrics and paediatrics.

**SECTION 25 — HOME NURSING SERVICE**

At the end of 1968 nine home nurses including a male nurse were serving residents in the division who were considered by general practitioners to be in need of home nursing, and the relevant numerical data for the year are shown in conjunction with the 1967 figures, which are given in brackets.

New Cases	Visits Paid
357 (452)	17,611 (19,006)

## SECTION 26—VACCINATION and IMMUNISATION

### (i) Vaccination against smallpox

**TABLE XI**

Number of children vaccinated against smallpox in 1968:

0—4 years	5—15 years	Re-vaccination
831	43	42

### (ii) Diphtheria immunisation

**TABLE XII**

Number of children immunised against diphtheria, generally in the form of triple antigen, during 1968:

Under 5 years	5—15 years	Re-inforcing doses
919	47	1059

The last case of diphtheria in Bebington was notified in 1953.

### (iii) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Whooping Cough immunisation was continued throughout the year, usually combined with diphtheria and tetanus toxoids.

**TABLE XIII**

Number of children immunised against whooping cough either alone or combined with diphtheria and tetanus toxoids:

Under 5 years	5—15 years	Re-inforcing doses
914	40	697

### (iv) Tetanus Immunisation

**TABLE XIV**

Number of children immunised against Tetanus either alone or combined with diphtheria and whooping cough during the year:

Under 5 years	5—15 years	Re-inforcing doses
919	64	1066

### (v) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

**TABLE XV**

Number of children vaccinated against Poliomyelitis in 1968:

Under 5 years	5—15 years	Re-inforcing doses
961	56	627

### (vi) Measles Vaccination

**TABLE XVI**

Number of children vaccinated against Measles during 1968:

Under 5 years	5—15 years
441	477

## (vii) B.C.G. Vaccination (Tuberculosis)

Table XVII gives details of numbers vaccinated.

**TABLE XVII**

B.C.G. Vaccination of thirteen year old schoolchildren:

1. Number of consent forms issued	482
2. Number of consents received	430
% consenting	89
3. Number tuberculin tested	388
4. Number tuberculin positive	12
% positive	3
5. Number vaccinated with B.C.G.	377
6. Percentage vaccinated	78

All mothers having their babies in hospital and general practitioner maternity homes are encouraged to have them vaccinated early in life and 544 had this done during the year.

The percentage of positive reactors falls steadily year by year and is regarded as a reliable index of the extent to which tuberculosis is prevalent in the community. These declining figures are therefore very encouraging but, as with all infectious diseases, constant vigilance must still be exercised.

## **SECTION 28 — PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE**

### (a) Tuberculosis

The following table shows the state of the register at the 31st December 1968 and other relevant figures for the year.

**TABLE XVIII**

					Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary (lung) ...	...	...	...	...	75	52	127
Non-pulmonary ...	...	...	...	...	4	12	16
							<hr/> 143 <hr/>
New cases placed on register:							
Pulmonary ...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Non-pulmonary ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
							<hr/> 2 <hr/>
Cases removed from Register ...	...	...	...	...	9		
Contacts examined by Chest Physician					7		



### (b) Handicapped Persons Club

The number of persons on the register at 31st December, 1968 was 31 and there was an average attendance of 24 during the year.

The Club was run by a part-time handicrafts instructor and one of the health visitors. Instruction is given in rugmaking, hand weaving, knitting, cane work and the making of soft toys with the use of foam rubber.

Early in the summer a number of these handicapped persons had a week's holiday at Pontin's Holiday Camp, Lytham St. Annes, arranged by the department.

### (c) Chiropody

The Chiropody Service for persons over 65, handicapped persons, and expectant mothers continues. Recipients must have their doctors or district nurses' recommendation.

104 males and 536 females had treatment during the year.

**TABLE XIX**

PLACE OF TREATMENT	CATEGORY					
	OVER 65		PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED		EXPECTANT MOTHERS	
	No. of patients	No. of treatments	No. of patients	No. of treatments	No. of patients	No. of treatments
Chiropodist's Surgery ...	365	1990	5	34	—	—
Home of patient	251	1284	19	109	—	—

Number of cases in which County Council paid full fees — 544

Number of cases in which County Council paid part fees — 96

### (d) Geriatric Consultant Clinic

Clinics of this nature together with domiciliary services marshalled by the health visitor can often be instrumental in maintaining these elderly patients in their own homes in the community. Admission to hospital or hostel may either be postponed or avoided altogether.

**TABLE XX**

	Attendances
New Ferry Clinic Centre ... ..	111
Eastham Clinic Centre ... ..	74

**(e) Elderly Persons Health Advisory Clinic**

Total number of attendances—178

This clinic is intended primarily as a preventive service for relatively fit elderly people. Its aims include both the early detection of disorder—physical, mental, emotional and social – and, by health education, the promotion of a state of positive health. It cannot and must not, compete with general practice, and it cannot administer treatments and medicines. Again in 1968 it seemed to appeal to a small number of people, some of whom at least were probably rather more introspective or anxious than usual, and these were afforded the reassurances they sought.

**(f) Cervical Cytology Clinic**

Number of patients examined — 697 (3 early lesions detected)

The opportunity is taken to examine the genital organs, breasts, and urine, and many conditions have been detected which respond to advice and treatment.

**(g) Family Planning Clinic**

Number of patients seen 266

Number of attendances 743

**(h) Home Nursing Equipment**

During the year issues of home nursing equipment on loan totalled 166.

**(i) Meals on Wheels**

The Voluntary “Meals on Wheels” Service run by the Women’s Royal Voluntary Service supplied 22,501 meals to aged and handicapped people during the year. The W.R.V.S. have three vans operating this service, which affords to some their chief form of nourishment. Meals are supplied daily from Mondays to Fridays, and 801 more lunches were served in 1968 than in 1967.

**(j) Recuperative Holidays**

In 1968 two patients had a recuperative holiday arranged by the department.

**(k) Alterations and Adaptations to property**

During the year financial assistance was granted in eight cases to meet the cost of alterations and adaptations to property occupied by physically handicapped people.

**(l) Special Washing Service**

The issue of disposable paper drawsheets and pants has proved to be very useful for the care of incontinent cases and as a result no-one has required a special washing service.

### (m) Health Education

Much health education is carried out at preparation classes for ante-natal mothers, at infant welfare and young children's clinics, and at school medical inspections. Much more is imparted in the course of home visits.

## SECTION 29 — DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The National Health Service Act 1946 (S.29) gave the local authority power to establish a service — “for providing domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged or a child. . .”.

During 1968 domestic helps were employed for a total of 38,518 hours  
At the end of the year 40 part-time helps were employed.

**TABLE XXI**

		No. of Cases	No. of hours help provided
(a)	Persons aged 65 years or over ...	267	34,103
(b)	Persons aged under 65 years		
	(i) Chronic sick and tuberculous ...	23	3,145
	(ii) Mentally disordered ...	2	402
	(iii) Maternity ...	19	354
	(iv) Others ...	22	514
		333	38,518

There is a scale of charges in operation whereby the amount paid for the service is assessed according to the income of the family concerned after deductions are made for rent, rates and personal allowances. The maximum charge is 6/-d. per hour. No charge is made in respect of help provided to a patient whose income consists of or includes any payment from the Ministry of Social Security.

## MENTAL HEALTH

### (a) Staff

The Mental Health section is staffed by an Area Mental Welfare Officer, Deputy Area Mental Welfare Officer, and four mental welfare officers, two of whom are away on full-time training. In addition two trainees are attached to the section. These officers are responsible for the areas of the Bebington and Deeside divisions.

Mental Welfare Officers are charged with the care and after-care of the mentally disordered, that is both the mentally ill and the mentally subnormal.

(b) **Junior Training Centre**

The children attending this Centre require a good deal of individual attention but by the same token relief is afforded to parents, and it is hoped that with care and patience much progress may be made in their special education.

There were 92 children (40 girls, 52 boys) on the register at 31st December, 1968.

The register was made up as follows:

District								No. of children on register
Bebington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Ellesmere Port	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Heswall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Neston	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Hoylake and West Kirby	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Irby	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pensby	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Greasby	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								—
								92
								—









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